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Contact

Melissa Weber, Director of Communications

Phone: 320-589-6414, weberm@morris.umn.edu

Jenna Ray, Editor/Writer

Phone: 320-589-6068, jrray@morris.umn.edu

Research rocks!

Summary: Jamey Jones, a geology professor at the University of Minnesota, Morris, was recently awarded a grant from Montana State University and the U.S. Geological Survey.

(December 15, 2006)-Jamey Jones, a geology professor at the University of Minnesota, Morris, was recently awarded a grant from Montana State University and the U.S. Geological Survey.

Jones' colleague, Colin Shaw, at Montana State University, was awarded \$11,000 from the U.S.G.S. Educational Mapping (EDMAP) Program to do geological mapping in the Glenwood Canyon area of western Colorado. Jones was given \$2,400 of this grant to provide field and analytical support for determining the ages of rocks exposed in the area.

"Hopefully this project is the start of a collaboration on more projects with Shaw and Montana State University," said Jones.

Last summer, two UMM students, Bobby Goodfellow and Megan Mekoli, worked with Jones in western Colorado mapping rock exposures and collecting samples to be dated. The group is currently processing these samples in preparation for analyses that will be done using lab facilities at The University of Texas at Austin. The rocks that Shaw, Jones, Goodfellow and Mekoli are studying are believed to be between 1.7 and 1.4 billion years old and the funded research is expected to provide new insights into how parts of the North American continent were built and modified more than one billion years ago.

Photo: Jones (left), Goodfellow and Mekoli

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